

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application, with claims 4-8, 17-20, and 29-34 being withdrawn from consideration.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiners Mills and Stodola for the courtesy of a telephone interview on October 24, 2005. In the interview, proposed amendments to independent claims 1, 14, 15, and 27 relating to the location of the slit in the ball portion of the first limb member and the attachment of the tab to the socket surface of the second limb member were discussed. It is believed that the proposed amendments overcome the rejections of record. The objections to the drawings and proposed corrections were also discussed.

The Amendments to the Specification

The second full paragraph at page 9 has been amended at line 18 to clarify that the dimples shown in Fig. 6B are not drawn to scale. A comparison of Figs. 6A and 6B shows that the dimples in Fig. 6B have been exaggerated relative to those in Fig. 6A.

The Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 14, 15, and 27 have been amended to specify that the slit is positioned in a ball portion at the joining end of a first limb member and that the tab is attached to the interior surface of a socket portion at the joining end of a second limb member. These amendments are supported at page 5, lines 6-11 and page 9, line 12 of the specification as filed and Figures 5A, 6A, 7, and 8. To clarify the relationship between the ball and the socket portions, claims 1, 14, 15, and 27 have been further amended to specify that the ball portion of the first limb member is at least partially inserted into the socket portion of the second limb member, the socket portion being sized and shaped to fit the ball portion inserted therein. This amendment is supported by Figures 1B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B and 7. In particular, the wrist joint 23 of Figure 1B and Figures 5B and 6B show an embodiment where the ball portion is only partially inserted into the socket, so

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teach this claim limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 15 and 27. Since claims 16 and 21 depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claim 15 and claim 28 depends from and incorporates all the limitations of claim 27, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16, 21 and 28.

The Objections

The Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because of alleged improper crosshatching in figures 2B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6A, and 7 and alleged lack of clarity regarding labels 60, 74, 80, 50 and 105. The objections are believed obviated by the submission of amended replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 2A-2C, Figs. 3A-3C, Fig. 4A, Fig. 4B, Fig. 5A, Fig. 6A, Fig. 7, and Fig. 8. The replacement drawing sheets are provided in the appendix to this response.

Conclusion

All claims being in condition for allowance, passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

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